



*Allure Journal: A Journal of Applied Linguistics, Linguistics, and Literature*  
Volume 1 No 1, July 2021

## **An Analysis of Expressive Speech Act Used in The Ellen Show "Interview With Billie Eilish"**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This research aims at identifying types of expressive speech acts, to describe the realization and the actual condition used in Billie Eilish interview in Ellen show. The researchers used descriptive qualitative. The data of this study was collected from the interview script. In this research, the data are taken from the dialogue among the Interviewer and Interviewee; this research used document analysis for analyzing the data. The finding showed there were 16 utterances of expressive speech acts, which consisted of 1 expression of apologizing (6.2%), 1 expression of thanking (6.2%), 6 expressions of congratulating (37.5%), 1 expression of greeting (6.2%), 1 expression of wishing (6.2%), 5 expressions of attitudes (31.2%). The results showed that the expressive form of congratulating is the most dominant expressive speech act. The expressive form of congratulating is the most dominant expressive speech act.*

*Keywords: Expressive speech acts; Interview; Speech Act*

### **INTRODUCTION**

People have their ways of expressing their ideas. One of them is through language. Language makes people able to express their particular meaning, thoughts, and feelings to communicate with others. People will never separate from language and its use. A language is used in many various fields such as education, social, cultural, economic, political, science, and others. All their activities use language for a specific reason, for Example, in the Interview. An interview is effective if the purpose of the interview can be comprehended well. It means that both the speaker and the hearer have the same perception of what they are talking about. When the speakers utter something, it can even cause misunderstanding when they fail to process the speakers' intended meanings. Moreover, the speakers have something in their mind which they expect the hearers to do, but in some cases, the speakers' expectation is not the same as what the hearers understand. According to Yule (1996, p. 3), pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker and interpreted by a listener. The research focuses not only on structure internally but also on how the communication will be comprehended well by the hearer. Besides, most people also put on expressions during the communication to express their idea to make the listener to comprehend what they are trying

to talk about. They produce the utterances and perform actions through the utterances, and it is called a speech act. Searle proposed that speech acts could be grouped into general categories. It didn't base on performative but on the relationship between "the words" and "the world" and on who is responsible for making that relationship work Peccei (1999, p. 5).

Searle's (1976, p. 8) theory classifies the illocutionary act into five types: representative, directive, commissive, declaration, and expressive. According to Searle (1976, p. 3), a representative speech act states what the speaker believes to be the case or not. Examples include asserting, predicting and insisting. According to Yule (1996:54), a directive speech act that the speaker uses to get someone else to do something expresses what the speaker wants, such as a command, order, request, and suggestion. According to Yule (1996, p. 54), commissive speech acts commit the speaker to perform some future action, such as promises, achievements, threats, refusals, pledges. According to Yule (1996, p. 54) a declaration Speech act is an act that brings about a statement that changes in status or condition to an object. According to Yule (1996, p. 53), an expressive speech act is a state of what the speaker feels. It expresses psychological states and can be pleasure, pain, likes, dislikes, joy, or sorrow.

This research focuses on the expressive speech act type. The main focus of expression is that a particular psychological state is expressed. Through expression, people commonly used to say what they want not to say. The expressions will appear on the person's face when they get upset, angry, or happy. This was very important to understand during communicating with other people. In addition, to minimize misunderstanding between hearer and speaker.

In this case, the researchers analyzed the expression in Billie Eilish interviews on Ellen Show. Billie Eilish is a successful musician at an early age. Her album was becoming the most selling in the United States. She is the first artist who held a world concert tour at 17 years old. And, her music video song has watched 15 billion streamed on YouTube.

Billie Eilish has won seven Grammy Awards, two American Music Awards, two Guinness World Records, three MTV Video Music Awards, and one Brit Award. She is the youngest person and only the second in history to win all four major Grammy categories in that year: Best New Artist, Record of the Year, Song of the Year, and Album of the Year. In 2019, Time magazine named her one of the most influential people in the world. Billie Eilish is the 26th-highest-certified artist of the digital singles era, according to the RIAA. That was crazy.

The Ellen Show is one of the subscribed talk shows on YouTube, and being in the top ten of the most favorite shows in the United States. Just like the name, The Ellen Show is hosted by a talented actress named Ellen DeGeneres. Ellen show's often invite famous people like artists, actors/actresses, young businessmen/women, singers and ordinary people with an extraordinary talent. Different with another talk show, the show is able to discuss serious topic became a comedy, and combine with others aspects such as music, game, surprise, and human-interest issues, to deliver to the audiences. The Ellen Show got lots of awards, such as 59 Daytime Emmy Awards in 2017, and it has also won four Outstanding Talk Show, six Outstanding Talk Show-Entertainment and also 17 People's Choice Awards.

Many researchers have carried out the study of the Expressive speech act. The following are researchers who discusses expressive speeches namely Anna Riana Suryanti Tambunan (2018), Dina Mariani Siregar (2018), Ahmad Tauchid (2016). The studies are about analyzing

the speech act of the Interview. At the same time, Dina Maria Siregar obtained data from the Oprah script movie. Depending on several types of follow-up research in pragmatics publications, this same method and theories used assist the researchers in discussing the same field. The author wants to do an expressive speech act analysis in the Billie Eilish interview that discusses the linguistic forms of speech, explicit speech act functions, and expressive reasons. Therefore, the objectives of the study in this case were the researcher's road map for studying the problems that had already been formulated, they are 1) to identify the types of expressive speech acts in Billie Eilish's Interview in Ellen show, 2) to describe the realization of the expressive speech acts in Billie Eilish's interview. 3) to describe the actual conditions of expressive speech acts used in Billie Eilish interview.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The researchers have been collected some relevant studies and information on the topic, as follows: The first study was done by Anna Riana Suryanti Tambunan (2018); the title is Expressive Speech Acts in Ellen Show "An interview with Ed Sheeran," she uses a descriptive qualitative. She describes the various types of expressive acts that are derived from listening to and reading the transcript of the Interview. Then she identifies and analyzes the expressive actions used in the interview. The final step is to analyze the data using John R. Searle's concept. Based on all of the data analysis from the transcript interview. As a result of her research, she discovered 30 expressive speech acts, which include six (6) surprises, two (2) happiness, two (2) sadness, 0 anger, 0 blame, 0 apologies, (3) congratulations, and two (2) thank you. The total word count for this dialogue is 1091, and the interview/dialogue lasted 5 minutes. The second Research is Research conducted by Yulia Anggraeni entitled (2019) The Expressive Speech Act on Ridwan Kamil's Comments in Instagram Posting about First COVID-19 Case in Indonesia. In her research, she uses descriptive qualitative research. The study's instrument is observation and documentation. She used random sampling to collect the data. It means she organized the data by sampling the comments on Ridwan Kamil's Instagram post. As a result, the researchers discovered 26 expressive speech acts. It consists of 13 wishing expressions, nine complaining expressions, and four protesting expressions.

Another closely related research is the research conducted by Dina Mariani Siregar (2018) entitled A Study Of Expressive Speech Act Used By The Characters In "ORPHAN" Movie Script. Based on Searle's theory, her research aims to identify the types of expressive speech acts and describe the utterances performed by the characters in the "Orphan" movie script. The research utilizes a qualitative approach, and the data are analyzed descriptively. As a result, there are six types of expressive speech acts produced: eight expressive of thanking (12.5%), thirteen expressive of apologizing (20.3%), four expressive of congratulating (6.2%), twelve expressive of greeting (18.7%), seven expressive of wishing (11.1%), and twenty expressive of attitudes (31.2%). According to the findings of this study, the characters' most dominant expressive expressions are expressive of attitudes 20. (31.2%).

Another similar research is the research conducted by Mila Fitria (2017) entitled Expressive utterances found in Zach Sang on YouTube. The data collected by observational method and note-taking technique. She analyzes the data using a theory of types of expressive Utterance by Ronan (2015) and the idea of Utterance's functions by Searle and Vanderveken (1985). As a result, there are 87 utterances used in the video. It consists of 35 expressions of

agreement, 16 expressions of volition, nine expressions of disagreement, eight expressions of compliment, four expressions of pride, four expressions of sorrow, four expressions of thanking, three expressions of greeting, three expressions of exclamation, and one expression of apologizing. The research about pragmatics analysis above is similar to this research because they also analyzed the pragmatics, especially expressive speech act and the theory, as the basis of their research. Second, the previous studies above have used the same method or research design, the qualitative research method. However, what makes this research different from those studies is the research object and the technique for analyzing it. Anna Riana's Research also examined one successful singer from the UK in Ellen Show and identified and classified it to analyze it. Meanwhile, in this research, the Interview was a successful young artist from the USA. The interviewee was not British but American, and document analysis was the technique to analyze the data.

## **METHODOLOGY**

In this research, the researchers used descriptive qualitative research. The object of the study is Billie Eilish Interview on The Ellen Show, which Interview released on YouTube on April 1. 2019. And, it has been re-uploaded to YouTube Channel by J12495 with a full version. The interview script served as the study's source data. The data for this study are derived from the conversation between the Interviewer and the Interviewee. The writer then conducted an analysis by locating the expressive used on the talk show based on their utterances. These utterances will be analyzed using Searle's (1976) theory of expressive speech acts. The data in this study was analyzed using document analysis. Because the researchers couldn't meet personally with the artist, even though he may have spent a considerable amount of money. Nonetheless, the researchers benefited from advancing the technology nowadays, which supported the researchers in collecting the data. This research used document analysis for analyzing the data.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

The types of expressive speech act found in Billie Eilish interview. The researchers found that the expression of attitudes most frequently appeared in the types of sentences from the table above. Many forms of expressive speech shown in the table based on Billie Eilish interview's which is presented as follows:

### **1. Apologizing**

First of all, the main goal of expressive apologizing is to express the speaker's regret or wrong for something unpleasant. There is only one utterance that has found from Billie Eilish interview's inexpressive apologizing.

Excerpt 1: "I know. I am so sorry."

It used to express Ellen's apologies toward Billie. Ellen's utterance is apology sentences. She says that Justin Bieber will come to her show, without Billie knowing that Billie Eilish has a

crush on him. Simple Present Tense constructs the sentence above to make the expression to be straightforward.

## 2. Thanking

An expression of thanking is a kind of utterance expressed by someone to show that people are grateful for something that someone has done Searle, (1976:14). It means the speaker commonly uses an expression of thanks to express gratitude.

There are two forms of inexpressive thanking, namely "Thank you" and "Thanks." Generally, there is no difference in meaning between Thanks and Thank you. The difference is the context in which "Thank you" and "Thanks" are used. The expression of thank you is more formal than thanks. There is one utterance of thanks that has been found in Billie Eilish's interviews.

Excerpt 2: "Thank you, " uttered Billie Eilish.

Billie's utterance shows gratitude after Ellen has said that she has a beautiful eye. The information above includes an expression of thanks because it contains a thanking utterance. Billie uses a proper thanking form to honor Ellen that is older than her. Moreover, Billie is a person who appreciates others' compliments.

## 3. Congratulating

The Expression of congratulating is to express congratulating when the speaker feels pleasure, sympathy toward something happening. Commonly, people use this expression to congratulate someone who succeeds in achieving something or celebrating a special moment. The Utterances of congratulating that has found;

Excerpt 3: "something very cool that Billy did to her fans earlier," uttered Ellen.

Ellen uses an expression of congratulation to congratulate Billie new song. The noun phrase "very cool" includes an expression of congratulation because it contains an expression of pleasure.

Excerpt 4: "You've got fans that are Julia Roberts Sam Smith Thom Yorke Dave Grohl is here he's a massive fan of yours "Uttered by Ellen.

It uses Ellen to congratulate Billie because she has so many fans from famous artists like Julia Robert, Sam Smith, Thom Yorke, Dave Grohl. It includes expressions of congratulations because it is not easy for new artists to have fans from celebrities. Moreover, Billie is 17 years old. It is indirect expressive speech acts in which we have to conclude implicitly.

Excerpt 5: "I mean like your major people that are fans of yours," uttered Ellen.

Ellen's statement congratulates because she wants to praise or commend Billie. After all, almost all the audiences who watch the show in the studio are her fans. It is indicating how famous Billie Eilish is nowadays.

Excerpt 6: "That's amazing that you spoke about it," Uttered by Ellen.

It used to congratulate Ellen on Billie. After, Billie bravely speaks up about Tourette's syndrome she has. It's something fantastic for Ellen because most artists hid their matters to discuss. The word "amazing "indicates that the speaker felt pleasure or sympathy with what was happening.

Excerpt 7: "I think it's a good thing. " Uttered by Ellen.

It used to express Ellen's congratulation toward Billie. Ellen's utterance is a statement that refers to her congratulation to Billie, who being brave speaks up with her Tourette's syndrome. Tourette syndrome is a neurological disorder that causes a person to have involuntary physical or verbal tics. In Billie Eilish's case, she exhibits physical tics. Billie begins to speak up about her Tourette syndrome after her syndrome relapsed in an interview. People think that Billie tries to make a joke of her face, and they begin to make many compilations of Billie's tics without knowing that it is Tourette syndrome. After that moment, Billie starts to speak up on her Instagram story about her Tourette syndrome. She never wants people to think of Tourette every time they think about Billie. Ellen is sure that what Billie has done will empower many people who have the syndrome to survive and accept that those syndromes are part of them, and that's fine. They can reach their dream and be a success, like Billie. The sentence includes an expressive type of congratulating because it contains an expression of pleasure.

Excerpt 8: "I think it's like I said. I think a lot of people watching now that you know maybe didn't hear you say it before will be like, whoa, I have it too, and that's great."

Uttered by Ellen. It used to express Ellen's congratulation toward Billie. Ellen's utterance is a statement to congratulate Billie because she thinks Billie Eilish has positively impacted everyone who watched the show. Billie says that having Tourette's syndrome is not something that is embracing or wrong. Rather than trying to hide that syndrome, she asks all people who have that syndrome to accept that the syndrome is part of their life and that it's okay. Ellen believes that all people who watch her show will be inspiring and do not feel lonely. So, she says that to praise Billie and express her pleasure.

#### 4. Wishing

Expressive of Wishing is to express what the speaker desires or wants to expect it to become a reality in the future. This expression is commonly said to someone who celebrates his/her birthday, wedding celebration, and other special moment. Below is an example of utterances containing expressive of wishing found in "Billie Eilish interview's script:

Excerpt 9: "You will meet him someday, "Uttered by Ellen.

It used to express Ellen's wish toward Billie. Ellen's utterance is a statement that refers to that she wants Billie to meet Justin Bieber someday. Billie Eilish has crushed Justin Bieber since she is a kid, and Justin inspires Billie with her music. The sentence includes an expressive type of wishing because it contains an expression of desire. The sentences use simple future tense to express what is going on in the future. We know the simple future tense function is to tell something that will happen in future time. It indicates the auxiliary "will."

## 5. Greeting

An expressive Greeting is an expression of welcome. The speaker usually does greet the hearer at the beginning of the conversation. The utterance that has found:

Excerpt 10: "We're back with Billie Eilish, "uttered Ellen.

It used to express the act of welcoming Ellen toward Billie. The statement includes an expressive type of greeting because it contains an expression to greet someone in the beginning.

## 6. Attitude

An expression of attitude is the speaker's expression when the speaker disagrees. It is disliked, complains, and criticizes the hearer's perspective. In this term, there are two kinds of attitude utterances that are found. They are "complaints" and "criticism." A complaint is expressing to express that you are unhappy, sick, uncomfortable because of something Etc. When people complain, most of them say that they feel negative about something. While criticism is to express that you disapprove of someone or something or talk about the problems or faults of someone or something. The utterances that have found:

Excerpt 11: "you better, Hey, you've got to watch yourself, bro," uttered Billie.

It used to express Billie's complaint toward Ellen's statement. Firstly, Billie says that she never meets Justin Bieber even though Justin started to follow her Instagram account. And then, Ellen says that Justin Bieber would come to the show. It makes Billie uncomfortable because she is not ready yet, and Ellen does not tell her before. Then, Billie said that utterance to express her uncomfortable feeling and stop Ellen from making a joke.

Excerpt 12: "No, no, "uttered by Ellen.

It used to express Ellen's criticism of Billie's opinion. Ellen disagrees with Billie's opinion. She thinks that the spice girls are girls who act as singers in the spike spice world. But, in reality, the Spice girls are the real singers. That's Ellen's opinion. So, Ellen uttered the word "no" to disagree with Billie's opinion and fix Billie's misunderstanding.

Excerpt 13: No, I think it's like I said," uttered by Ellen.

It used to express Ellen's criticism toward everyone who made Billie's tics compilations video. She disagrees with what those people have done.

Excerpt 14: "There was this one interview where they didn't tell me they weren't going to cut the questions out, so I'm sitting there answering the questions like aha, and then they start asking me a question."

It is to express Billie's complaint about a bad interview that she has done before Ellen's show. So, before coming to Ellen's show, Billie has an interview with a television program too. In the beginning, the discussion goes along well until, in the middle of the interview, her syndrome relapses. She does a bunch of tics. A bunch of tics is a meaningless movement like blinking

eyes, throat clearing. And people start to make funny complications of her facial expansion. She feels unhappy when she gets sick, but the interviewee is constantly asking questions. She thinks that the part would be cut, but the show's reality shows the whole part even though Billie syndrome relapses.

Excerpt 15: "They made a whole. There are tons of compilations."

It expresses Billie's criticism toward the people who make funny compilations of Billie Eilish during her relapse. The statement indicates that Billie disagrees with what those people did. There are 2-point of view in this case. First, Billie points out she feels unhappy with what those people have done because it is wrong to make a joke about someone's illness. Second, those people or audiences who created complications for Billie may think that what Billie did is a joke. Moreover, Tourette Syndrome is something new for them, and no one speaks up about that before.

The researchers provide a detailed explanation of the data analyzed so that it can be more understandable. Based on the data, the researchers found there were 16 utterances of expressive speech acts. It consisted of 1 expression of apologizing (6.2%), 1 expression of thanking (6.2%), 6 expressions of congratulating (37.5%), 1 expression of greeting (6.2%), 1 expression of wishing (6.2%), 5 expressions of attitudes (31.2%). The researchers found that the congratulating expression appeared more than another expression. Her congratulated expression appears many times because Ellen congratulated Billie for her successful career and her new song.

This research findings are compared to some other research that have been published on the internet. The research compared with this study has the same theory, method but the object and the technique analyzing are different. The first study was about analyzing expressive speech acts in the Ed Sheeran interview. In her research, she found the dominant expressive speech act was expressive or surprising, with a percentage of 46.67%. The second compared with this research was a study in expressive speech act analysis on Ridwan Kamil's Comments in Instagram posting about first COVID-19 Case in Indonesia. In her research, she found the dominant expressive speech act was expressive of wishing percentage of 20.3%. The third research compared with this research about expressive speech acts used in the characters in "ORPHAN" movie script. In her research, she found the dominant expressive speech act was expressive of attitudes, with a percentage of 31.2%. Another research compared with this research about expressive speech acts found in Zach sang on YouTube. In her research, she found the most expressive speech act was expressive of agreement.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

The researchers concludes that both speakers produce utterances containing expressive speech acts. Every utterance has produced a certain meaning that the speaker wanted to deliver. Understanding the context and the expressive utterances helps the speaker understand the conversation or interview. Moreover, it helps to decrease the misunderstanding between them. Searle formulated six types of expressive speech acts in this study. They are expressive of thanking, congratulating, attitudes, apologizing, and wishing. The researchers discovered 16



utterances of expressive speech acts based on the data. It consisted of 1 expression of apologizing (6.2%), 1 expression of thanking (6.2%), 6 expressions of congratulating (37.5%), 1 expression of greeting (6.2%), 1 expression of wishing (6.2%), 5 expressions of attitudes (31.2%). The expressive of congratulating are the most dominant expressive speech act because Ellen congratulates Billie for her successful career and her new song during the interview. From the data above, we know that Billie and Ellen have a good conversation or interview because the utterance has produced, they can understand each other. They have produced a correct utterance in an exact time. Sometimes they disagree with each other. The researchers provide some recommendations as follows; 1) the researchers expects that the next researchers should select a more creative object to analyze, like motivation speech, a text of recount, classroom interaction, and others that contain many utterances. 2) the next researchers should select a different theory as the fundamental to analyze because there are many theories about expressive speech acts. It will be better if the next researchers select another theory so it will give the reader a new point of view and references about expressive speech acts. 3) before writing this research, the next researchers must read many books, journals, and others as references. So, they have an imagination of what they are going to write about this research. Reading many books and journals also will make this research conduct more creative and intellectual.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Senowarsito, M.Pd. and Dr. Dyah Nugrahani, M.Hum as my advisors for their kind support and guidance to successfully complete my final project. I am greatly thankful to my lovely family for supporting me mentally and physically during finishing this article.

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